

SEPTEMBER 26 – OCTOBER 3, 2018

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Indy's alternative voice



A black and white photograph of a woman with dark hair and smoky eye makeup looking directly at the camera. She is wearing a large, ornate headpiece that resembles butterfly wings or antennae. The background is a dense, intricate pattern of what looks like butterfly wings or organic structures.

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SEXUAL
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"THE Q:

What's your favorite
"banned book?"

// NUVO



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AN UNMUTEABLE TRUMP

BY ROB BURGESS // RBURGESS@NUVO.NET

I did not follow Donald J. Trump on Twitter before the 2016 election. Not only was I not interested, I had thought I wouldn't have to be. Hillary Clinton would surely become the 45th president, and Trump would go on to start Trump TV, or whatever other enterprise I would resume ignoring after Election Day.

You know how that turned out.

Then, sometime after Inauguration Day, I decided to accept our new reality and follow Trump on Twitter. I can't remember how long this lasted, but it couldn't have been more than a few days. I simply couldn't stand it. So, I unfollowed him.

But, then, I found the situation was worse than that. I found that other people I followed were constantly quote-tweeting the president, offering commentary on whatever inane dribble fell out of our Dear Leader's head. I couldn't escape it.

I then took my complaints to management.

Every time I saw Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey tweet I would beg him to ban Trump, as the president has repeatedly violated the company's own rules countless times. (If openly musing about nuclear war doesn't violate your Community Standards, I don't know what will, Jack.)

But, alas, just a few days into 2018, my hopes were dashed.

"There's been a lot of discussion about political figures and world leaders on Twitter, and we want to share our stance," read a Jan. 5 statement. "Twitter is here to serve and help advance the global, public conversation. Elected world leaders play a critical role in that conversation because of their outsized

impact on our society. Blocking a world leader from Twitter or removing their controversial Tweets would hide important information people should be able to see and debate."

In other words, when you're a star, they let you do it. You can do anything.

I then decided to mute Trump's account. This didn't mean I could completely escape his tweets, but I wasn't inundated with them. I still figured out what was being said through context

clues without being subjected to up-to-the-second updates. Plus, I found parody accounts to follow which sarcastically narrated Trump's tweets, turned them into official press releases, and even burned them.

This makeshift compromise held until I learned last week about a truly nightmarish development coming to a cell phone near you from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"The Emergency Alert System is a national public warning system that provides the President with the communications capability to address the nation during a national emergency," read the Sept. 17 press release.

An initial test on all enabled cell phones was originally planned for Sept. 20, but has been postponed until 2:18 p.m. EST Oct. 3, due to Hurricane Florence. The Wireless Emergency Alerts test message will have a header that reads "Presidential Alert."

So, now Trump can text us whether we signed up or not.

Are the Amish still taking applications? I'm not proficient at barn raising yet, but I'm a quick learner. ■

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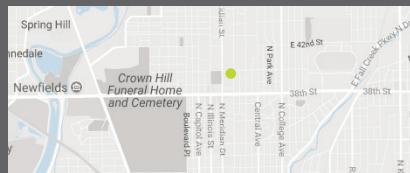
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STDs ON THE RISE IN STATE AND NATION

CDC and ISDH Report Steady Increases

BY ROB BURGESS // RBURGESS@NUVO.NET

Nearly 2.3 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis were diagnosed in the United States in 2017, surpassing the previous record set in 2016 by more than 200,000 cases.

This marked the fourth consecutive year of sharp increases in these sexually transmitted diseases, according to preliminary data released Aug. 28 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at the National STD Prevention Conference in Washington, D.C.

(The terms sexually transmitted diseases and sexually transmitted infections are used interchangeably, but mean different things. All STDs come from STIs, but not all STIs become STDs as patients are often asymptomatic.)

INCREASES LOCALLY, NATIONALLY

The CDC analysis of STD cases reported for 2013 and preliminary data for 2017 shows steep, sustained increases.

Primary and secondary syphilis diagnoses increased 76 percent—from 17,375 to 30,644 cases. Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men made up almost 70 percent of primary and secondary syphilis cases where the gender of the sex partner is known in 2017. Primary and secondary syphilis are the most infectious stages of the disease.

Chlamydia remained the most common condition reported to CDC. More than 1.7 million cases were diagnosed in 2017, with 45 percent among 15- to 24-year-old females.

Indiana has not been immune to these trends.

Caitlin Conrad, STD prevention program specialist at the Indiana State Department of Health, said Indiana has seen similar increases, due to a variety of factors.

"It can be anything from more online dating sites than we've ever had before [where] people have more access to more partners and more anonymous partners to reduced

stigma [because] maybe people don't feel as scared of STDs as they used to because they're all treatable conditions," she said. "People are getting tested pretty frequently now and have access to better healthcare services. There are more insurance options. So, people have access to a lot more resources than they have in the past."

Lynn Bunch, vice president of patient services for Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky, said many millennial patients they see want to avoid pregnancy above all else, so they de-prioritize condom use as a result, resulting in higher rates of infection.

"They're more likely to not use a condom

if they have contraception like an [intrauterine device] or an implant or even really a pill," she said.

ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT GONORRHEA

Gonorrhea diagnosis increased 67 percent overall—from 333,004 to 555,608 cases—and nearly doubled among men—from 169,130 to 322,169. Increases in diagnoses among women—and the speed with which they are increasing—are also concerning, with cases going up for the third year in a row—from 197,499 to 232,587.

The threat of untreatable gonorrhea persists in the United States, and reports of

antibiotic-resistant gonorrhea abroad have only reinforced those concerns. Over the years, gonorrhea has become resistant to nearly every class of antibiotics used to treat it, except to ceftriaxone, the only remaining highly effective antibiotic to treat gonorrhea in the United States.

In 2015, CDC began recommending health care providers prescribe a single shot of ceftriaxone accompanied by an oral dose of azithromycin to people diagnosed with gonorrhea. Azithromycin was added to help delay the development of resistance to ceftriaxone.

Emerging resistance to ceftriaxone has not been seen since the dual therapy approach was implemented, and there has not yet been a confirmed treatment failure in the United States when using this recommended therapy.

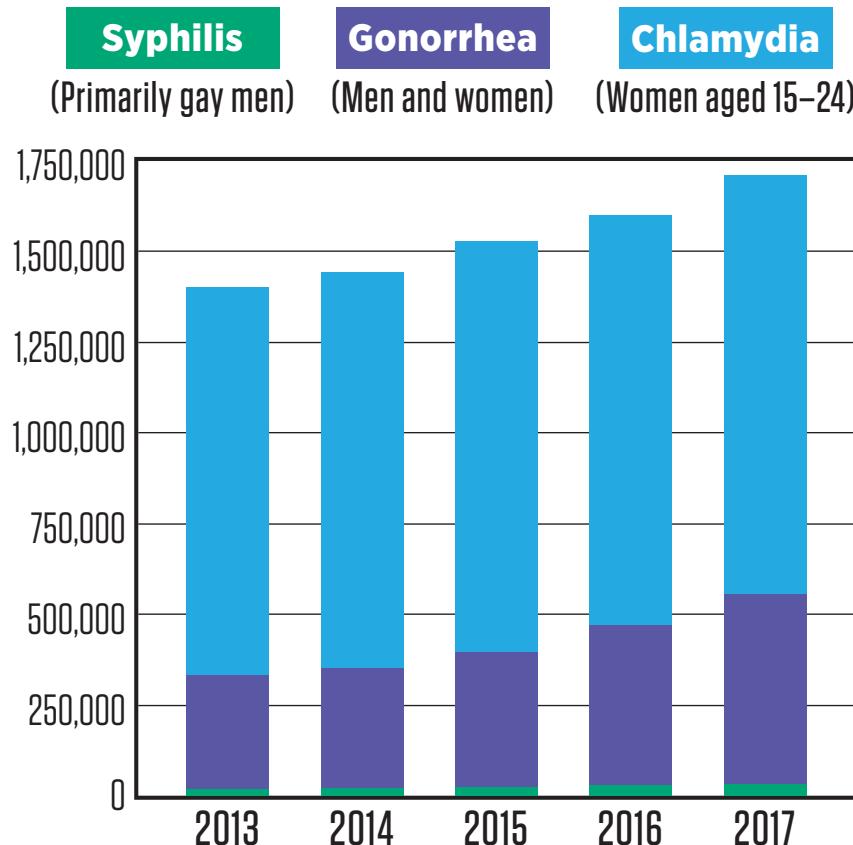
New CDC findings, however, show that emerging resistance to azithromycin is now on the rise in laboratory testing—with the portion of samples that showed emerging resistance to azithromycin increasing from 1 percent in 2013 to more than 4 percent in 2017.

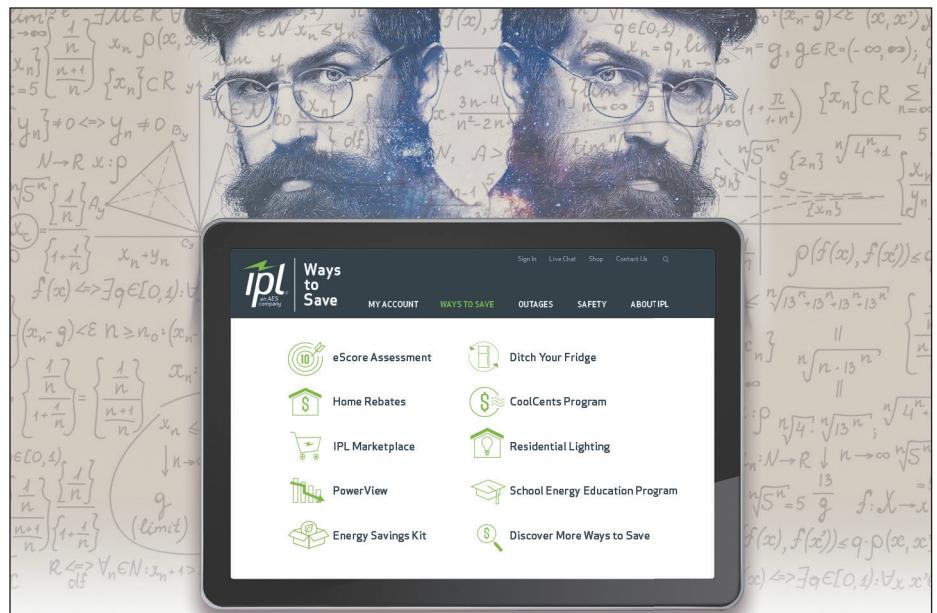
The finding adds concerns that azithromycin-resistant genes in some gonorrhea could crossover into strains of gonorrhea with reduced susceptibility to ceftriaxone—and that a strain of gonorrhea may someday surface that does not respond to ceftriaxone.

Conrad said Indiana was one of eight states which has received federal funding from the Combat Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (CARB) federal fund to explore emergency protocols for treatment of resistant gonorrhea.

"We try to identify the networks and figure out how those networks are spreading gonorrhea infections, and then we, obviously, treat those infections, as well," she said. ■

STD Diagnoses Among Key US Populations





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FOR VOGUE, 1948 // PHOTO BY GEORGE PLATT LYNES
FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE KINSEY INSTITUTE, INDIANA UNIVERSITY. © ESTATE OF GEORGE PLATT LYNES.

SENSUAL SEXUAL SOCIAL

Art, Fantasy, and Censorship Collide in Indianapolis

BY DAN GROSSMAN // dgrossman@nuvo.net

In French, the verb *to come*—as in *to orgasm*—translates as *jouir*, which also means *to enjoy*. But in English, it seems, there is little time for enjoyment as *to come* is synonymous with *to arrive*.

In his new book, *Tell me What you Want*, Indianapolis writer Justin Leh-miller doesn't dwell on such linguistic differences. But he does suggest that the exploration of sexual fantasies between consenting partners—and subsequent sexual enjoyment—has its benefits.

Attitudes have come a long way since photographer George Platt Lynes risked arrest for the male nudes that will be on display when an exhibit of his work entitled *Sensual/Sexual/Social* at Newfields opens at the Indianapolis Museum of Art beginning next week.

However, the America into which Lynes was born, at the beginning of the 20th Century, is still deeply conflicted over

sex. How could it be otherwise after a man like Trump is elected to the presidency, after the *Access Hollywood* tape and everything else?

I have no doubt that the Trump presidency, in all its corruption, is infinitely more obscene than the worst porn on Pornhub.

Speaking of porn, see our preview feature in this issue on the upcoming panel discussion “Too Much of a Good Thing” on Sept. 27, at Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library.

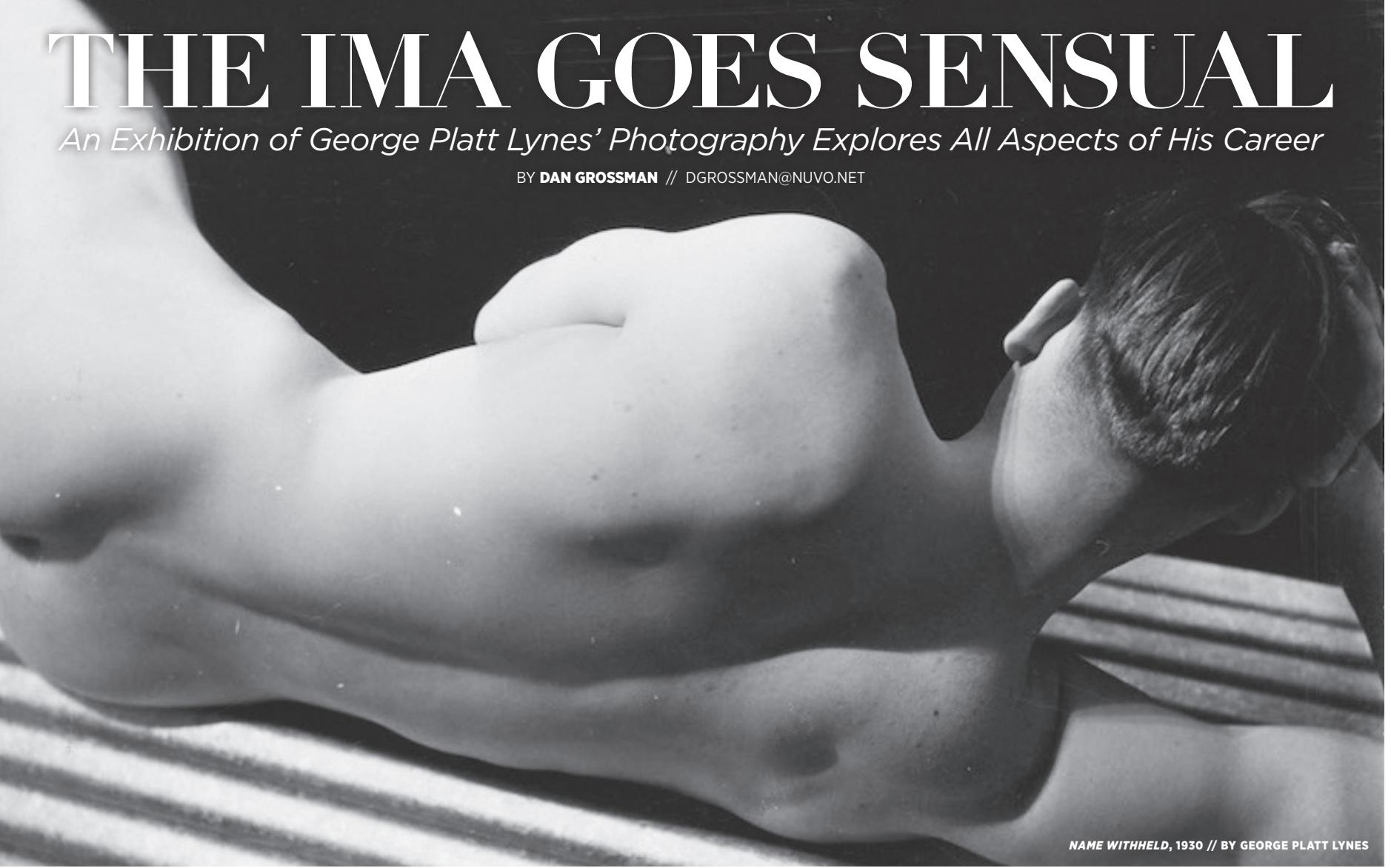
Yet, at least our culture has progressed to the point where Lynes' sensual photographs of male nudes can be shown at a major encyclopedic art museum—we're talking here about *Sensual/Sexual/Social* at the IMA, of course—without fear of reprisals.

We hope that the three semi-related articles that make up this week's cover story are sexy enough for you. That is, we hope you enjoy them. ■

THE IMA GOES SENSUAL

An Exhibition of George Platt Lynes' Photography Explores All Aspects of His Career

BY DAN GROSSMAN // DGROSSMAN@NUVO.NET



NAME WITHHELD, 1930 // BY GEORGE PLATT LYNES

George Platt Lynes may be the most influential photographer that you've never heard of. But probably you have heard of Annie Leibovitz, Robert Mapplethorpe, Richard Avedon, and Herb Ritts. All of these photographers were influenced by Lynes.

The exhibition *Sensual/Sexual/Social*, opening at the Indianapolis Museum of Art on Sept. 27, sheds light on Lynes as a photographer of many subjects, both clothed and unclothed. It also tells the story of how the Kinsey Institute in Bloomington wound up with over 2,300 original Lynes negatives and 600 prints.

Lynes, born in 1907, grew up in New

Jersey. In the mid-1920s he left for Paris, where he began to document with a camera the lives of his European friends, many of whom were gay.

When he returned stateside in the 1930s, he became a professional photographer. In fact, he became the first professional photographer for the New York City Ballet.

"He went to school boarding school with Lincoln Kirstein," says Anne Young Manager of Rights and Productions. "Kirstein was able to bring George Balanchine to America and form this school which would eventually become the New York City Ballet. He invited George to photograph it and Balanchine actually is noted as saying, the year after Lynes

WHAT // *Sensual / Sexual / Social : The Photography of George Platt Lynes*

WHEN // Sept. 30 - Feb. 14

WHERE // Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields

TICKETS // **FREE** with admission

passed away, that it was his belief that his photographs of the New York City Ballet were the best ever taken."

In New York, just as in Paris, he photographed his friends, and he often photographed them in the nude.

"It was a really interesting time to be in

New York in the '40s," says Robin Lawrence, Manager of Curatorial Affairs. "During World War II all these creative people that were being persecuted in Europe, which used to be the hub of artistic society, moved to New York and that's where Lynes was at the time. So you have all of these authors and artists who were in this Petri dish at the same time and they were very supportive of each other."

While Lynes lived among his friends as an openly gay man, he couldn't be open about his sexuality outside that closed circle of friends.

"They would go to each others' art openings, they'd buy each others books, they'd purchase each others art and it really cre-

ated the New York City art world that exists today," says Lawrence. "Because that didn't exist before WWII. That all took place in London, Paris, and Moscow. None of those places were safe to live in the 1940s because of the war."

Due to their procurement by the Kinsey Institute, the photographs are in great condition, says Lawrence.

"I think one of the interesting wrinkles in this story is that because Lynes was a gay man and he photographed nudes they likely could have very likely been destroyed if they'd been found because the subject matter is taboo," she says. "The naked male has always been looked upon differently than the naked woman in photographs."

At the time that Alfred Kinsey and Lynes met in the late 1940s, Kinsey was engaged in his groundbreaking research into human sexuality at Indiana University, Bloomington, where he founded the Institute for Sex Research in 1947.

"They started conversing and at that time Kinsey had just published his first book on sexual behavior in the human male and was looking at for more visual representations of different types of male sexuality and interaction," says Young. "So he became aware of George's work in particularly photographing nude males and being a gay man himself and frequently photographing gay men—not always gay men—in the nude. So they communicated back and forth for a number of years through 1955. That's the year that Lynes passed away."

There will be a selection of correspondence between Lynes and Kinsey in the exhibition and there will be recordings of actors reading those letters back and forth.

"Dr. Kinsey was very interested in getting these pieces for the Kinsey collection as these representations but also they were very aware of the restrictions in place," says Young. "The Comstock Laws were in place that would have made the sending of materials viewed as obscene illegal and they could have been confiscated."

Kinsey and his colleagues made several trips to New York City to physically transport the works back to Bloomington.

"Near the end of the letters you start seeing where, once George became diagnosed with cancer and knew that he was dying, he became very concerned about his legacy and what would happen to these works," says Young.

"The Flight into Egypt," that normally resides in the IMA's European collection. It will be paired with a Lynes-photographed portrait of Chagall, taken the same year the painting was composed.

"The galleries are thematically estab-



SELF-PORTRAIT, 1952 // BY GEORGE PLATT LYNES

Just as Kinsey was interested not just in the male nudes but in Lynes' ballet and fashion photography, this exhibition is focused on the totality of his work as well.

Sensual/Sexual/Social will also be supplemented by works from the IMA collection. This includes Marc Chagall's painting

lished starting with his fashion photography," says Lawrence. "That was really how he started making his money and how he really became established as a professional photographer. This would have been in the early 1930s when photography was really in its infancy as a form of commer-

cial advertising. There were still a lot of illustrations in magazines. That's how he got his name out, and how he began to establish his career."

The galleries containing the nude photography are curated with visitors' sensitivities in mind.

"We'll have the nudes divided into two different groups; the nudes that don't show any of the full frontal nudes in it and then we have the room that has the full frontal nudes in it," says Lawrence. "But all of our didactic interpretation material is outside that gallery so if our guests don't want to go into the full nude room."

The exhibition also acknowledges the fact that Lynes was an innovator in film photography, an art with which few under the age of 30 are acquainted any more.

"Our guests will be able to learn, from start to finish, taking a photo and going through the process of developing it," says Lawrence. "We'll have a table with the tools that you would need."

In some of his work, Lynes created works that resembled the work of his surrealist painter friends, without the aid of digital technology.

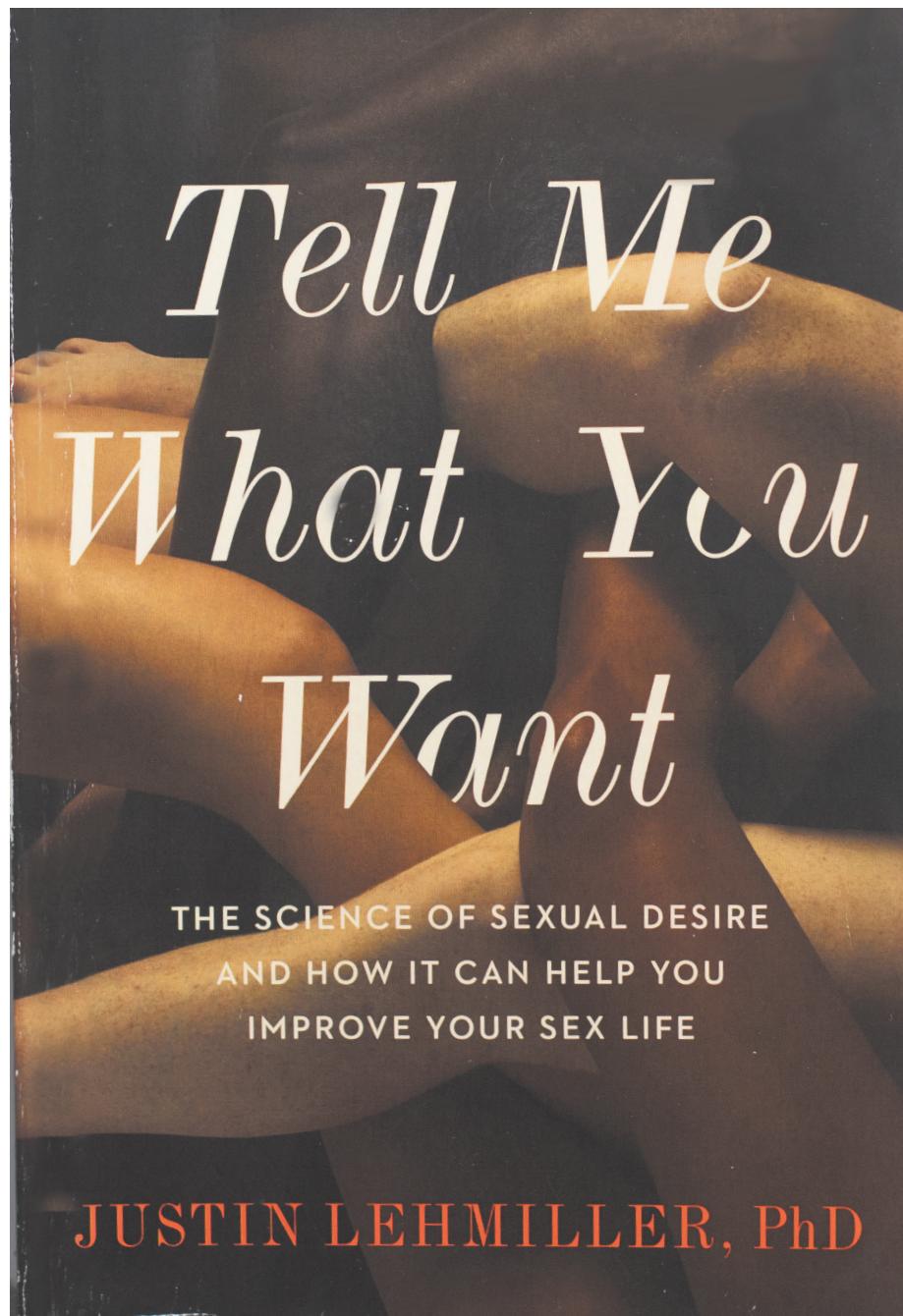
"George Platt Lynes is really a surrealist, doing the funky things, a disembodied arm on the side of a frame and today you would just cut and paste in Photoshop, but how would you do that with the tools that were available to you in the 1930s and 1940s?" says Lawrence.

Finally there will be a gallery highlighting the work of all the photographers Lynes influenced in their careers. And while the exhibition offers no answers about why Lynes remained obscure in comparison during the latter half of the 20th Century and the beginning of the 21st, it does ask some pointed questions in this regard.

"Was it because he died young?" Lawrence asks. "Was it because he was gay?... Was it because he photographed male nudes? Was it because his work was in Bloomington?"

But, above all, the exhibition will be a portrait of Lynes as a photographer and as a man.

"We'll put the man behind that camera," says Lawrence. ■



RESEARCHING SEXUAL FANTASY

New Book Reveals America's Secret Desires

BY DAN GROSSMAN // DGROSSMAN@NUVO.NET

In July, social psychologist Justin Lehmiller published *Tell Me What You Want: The Science of Sexual Desire and How it Can Help You Improve your Sex Life*.

The book is based on his survey of Americans' sexual fantasies, the largest such survey ever conducted.

You might find some of these findings surprising. Consider the fact that 60 percent of survey respondents reported having fantasized about inflicting pain on someone else during sex and 65 percent reported having fantasized about receiving it.

Lehmiller, a research fellow with the Kinsey Institute, also contends that men and women are not from different planets, as it were. Rather than see sexual difference in black and white, per the bestseller *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* by John Gray, Lehmiller sees many shades of gray.

Lehmiller, 38, was born in Canton, Ohio. He received his Ph.D in Psychology from Purdue University in 2008 and conducted the survey in 2014. Since then he's written articles for *VICE*, *Playboy*, *New York Magazine*, and *Men's Health*, and he is the author of the popular blog *Sex and Psychology*. He will participate in the "Too Much of a Good Thing" panel discussion on Sept. 27 at Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library (see page 13).

I interviewed Lehmiller on Sept. 12, in his apartment overlooking Mass Ave, where he lives with his spouse.

NUVO: Were there some big surprises for you in the survey?

JUSTIN LEHMILLER: There were a lot of things that I found surprising. I think to me one of the most interesting things was how much overlap there was in the sexual fantasies of men and women. Men's fantasies had a lot more emotional content than I was expecting. Men are often fantasizing about meeting emotional needs, like feeling desired, validated, or loved and women have a lot more adventurous fantasies than a lot

of the previous research suggested with high levels of interest in group sex, BDSM, and non-monogamy. To me that was really interesting, that it didn't necessarily align with some of the stereotypes that we have about men and women and sexual desire.

"With great sex comes great responsibility to care for the well-being of yourself and your partners to make sure that your activities are safe and consensual for everyone involved."

Another thing that I found really interesting were all the connections between our fantasies and our personalities. And our fantasies seem to say a lot about us. Our fantasies really seem to be constructed in a way that they meet our current sexual needs and non-sexual needs at the same time.

NUVO: There must have been daunting logistics in getting the survey organized.

LEHMILLER: It was almost a two-year project, the data here. I didn't have grant funding to do it. This was all people who were willing to volunteer their time to take a survey that consisted of 369 questions. So getting a large and diverse sample and in the end I had more than 4,000 people who completed it. It took a while. But that's something that speaks to a broader issue in sex research, which is that it's very hard to get funding to study anything other than STDs. If you want to study the positive side of sex, or anything that isn't from this risk based or disease based model, it's very hard to get funding to do that.

NUVO: You admitted that the survey respondents skewed towards more educated people who were willing to talk about their experiences, right?

LEHMILLER: Right. So I've never claimed, and I'm clear about this in the book, that it's not a representative sample of all Americans. It's a very large, very diverse sample but the sample skews a little more towards the average social media user than it does towards the average American, in that they're a little younger, a little more highly educated,

more likely to be white, and less likely to be Republican and so forth.

NUVO: You discovered that political affiliation played a role in sexual fantasies. Can you explain that?

LEHMILLER: To me it was really interesting that there was this connection between our political identities and our sexual fantasies. Specifically I found that Republican-identified individuals had more taboo sexual fantasies—more fantasies about infidelity and things that would

be considered sexually immoral—and I found that Democrats had more fantasies about BDSM activities in particular. And I think in both cases what might be going on there is that what we come to see as being taboo comes to be a turn on for us. Because, when we're told that we can't do something, we come to want it even more. I think that with the fantasies Republicans are reporting, politically and morally, these are things that they are told they can't do. Like infidelity. But with Democrats, playing with power is often a big taboo. The Democratic platform is all about equality. So I think that BDSM and those themes of dominance and submission, because they're a taboo, might become a turn on for them.

NUVO: #MeToo doesn't necessarily seem to apply in the realm of fantasies.

LEHMILLER: There's an interesting conversation to be had about #MeToo and sexual fantasies, especially considering how forced sex is such a popular fantasy theme. Two-thirds of the women I surveyed and more than half of the men reported fantasies about having sex forced upon them. Many of these individuals described their fantasies as "rape," but I don't think that term is very accurate here. When someone is fantasizing about forced sex, they're in complete control of the situation, including who their partner is and how the situation unfolds. Sex isn't truly being forced on

them, so it bears no resemblance to rape or sexual assault in the real world.

Even so, I suspect that a lot of people—women in particular—who have forced sex fantasies may feel uncomfortable with them in the #MeToo era, feeling like they might be traitors to the cause. However, this concern is unfounded because in these fantasies, everything is taking place on one's own terms. It's possible to enjoy this

"If you want to study the positive side of sex, or anything that isn't from this risk based or disease based model, it's very hard to get funding to do that."

fantasy and support #MeToo at the same time because they don't have anything to do with one another.

I should mention that there's a flip side to this, which is that some people—mostly of whom are men—fantasize about forcing sex on others. In the vast majority of these cases, these people describe scenarios that are consensual, such as when a partner is providing token resistance. In other words, it's really just a variant on consensual dominance-submission play. In the #MeToo era, I suspect some men worry about having these fantasies, and especially the potential consequences if they were to act them out. I think it's important to recognize that just because you have a fantasy, it doesn't necessarily mean you have to act it out. That said, anyone who is thinking about making the leap from fantasy to reality here would need to be extremely careful to ensure there is mutual consent and crystal clear communication because there are real risks here.

I should also mention that there is a small minority, almost exclusively men, who fantasize about truly non-consensual sex. These people are aroused by the idea of committing rape and actually forcing sex on someone. These fantasies are problematic and if they become someone's preferred fantasy content or if there are concerns that one might act on these fantasies, that's a sign that it's time to seek professional help.

NUVO: Why aren't men from Mars and women from Venus?

LEHMILLER: People like that idea, it helps them make sense of the world, that men and women are different and we have to come up with this common language to help them communicate. There's a lot that's been said and written about that, about how different we are when it comes to sex. But what I see in my own research is that we have a lot more in

common than we do differences. I think that's a very positive and encouraging thing. It suggests that we aren't as different as we think. So maybe we are getting

a little too hung up on the differences and not focusing on the similarities, these areas where we have common ground.

NUVO: Speaking of common ground, you seem to be saying that, at least for white people, sex fantasies are almost as segregated as their churches.

LEHMILLER: That was something that was really interesting to me, and I don't know if any researchers have looked at before. What's the role of race in our sexual fantasies? And what we see, or what I see in my data, is that systematic forms of racism and discrimination in our culture seem to be creeping into our fantasies in ways that we don't realize. A lot of people like to think that their attractions based on race are preferences that they can't control and they don't know where they come from. But I think in a lot of ways they're tied in with prevailing views on race in our culture and it's an uncomfortable thought to be sure.

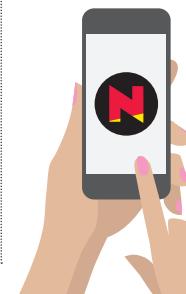
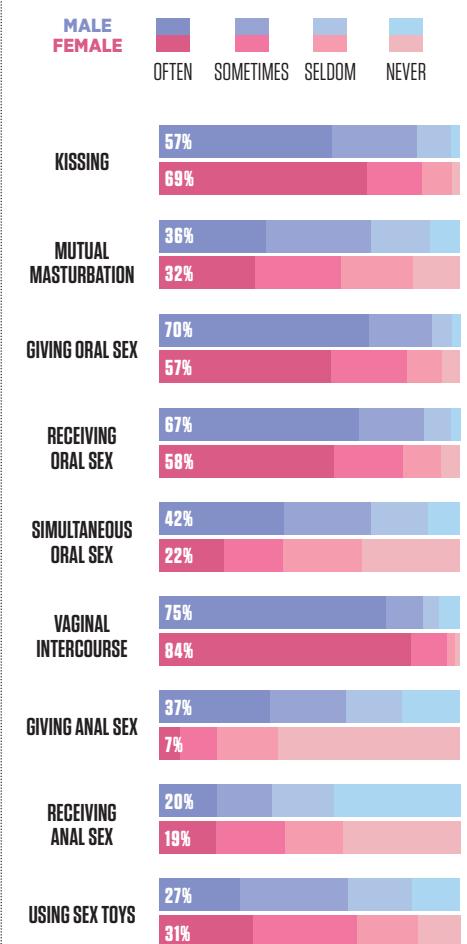
NUVO: To paraphrase Delmore Schwartz, maybe a nutshell of your book would be to say; in fantasies begin responsibilities, right?

LEHMILLER: Right. Especially when it comes to sharing them and acting upon them in the real world. With great sex comes great responsibility to care for the well-being of yourself and your partners to make sure that your activities are safe and consensual for everyone involved. ■

TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT

How Often We Fantasize About Certain Sex Acts

Taken from a survey of 4,000 individuals. Percentages in white indicate how many answered "often".



Read about how Lehmiller applies the lessons of his research to his own life by reading the full interview online at

NUVO.net

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ON STANDS OCT. 24

BANNED BOOKS WEEK ADDRESSES PORNOGRAPHY

Vonnegut Library Hosts 'Too Much of A Good Thing' Discussion

BY JOSHUA P. FLYNN // ARTS@NUVO.NET

We normally don't think of sex work and post traumatic stress disorder in combination. PTSD is usually reserved in our minds for soldiers on the battlefield. But this year PTSD and sex work will both be topics for a panel discussion taking place during Banned Books Week at Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library (KVML).

On Sept. 27, Stefanie Jeffers, a former sex worker, will join Rolling Stone's Tina Horn, sex therapist

Dr. Maria Hanzlik, and Justin Lehmiller, author of *Tell Me What You Want*, (see page 10) for "Too Much of a Good Thing" a panel moderated by KVML founder and CEO Julia Whitehead.

Jeffers sees PTSD symptoms in the women she helps and has experienced it herself. Jeffers is the founder of Grit into Grace, an Indianapolis nonprofit committed to helping women who have been exploited in the sex industry. The three most immediate needs for women looking to quit the business, she said, are help with housing, addiction recovery, and trauma counseling.

But what do sex work and mental health have to do with Kurt Vonnegut and Banned Books Week?

Vonnegut's novels have been and continues to be challenged for vulgarity. It also tackles themes of mental health, tying into a year-long theme at *Lonesome No More*, a year-long series of programming at KVML. The focus of the panel discussion is on

loneliness caused by both mental illness and the times we live in.

The panel's name comes from an anecdote shared by Whitehead about Vonnegut's visit to a pornographic theater. He was invited by his writer friend Sidney Offit and Dr. Avodah Offit, a sex researcher. Minutes after the film began, Vonnegut departed. Offit followed and asked his friend what was wrong.

"Too much of a good thing," Vonnegut replied.

"Vonnegut was very open in his talk about sex in his books," Whitehead said. "Some people don't like that. Some people love that. Some people are just uncomfortable knowing if they like it or not. We come [to this panel] from the perspective of getting information, sharing information, and not judging anybody."

Judgement is an approach Jeffers has left behind. She knows from experience how one judges oneself when they are deep into sex

WHAT // Too Much of a Good Thing
WHEN // Thursday, Sept. 27, 6-8 p.m.
WHERE // Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library
TICKETS // **FREE**, RSVP vonnegutlibrary.org

work. And she knows the road to recovery is long, difficult, and full of potholes.

Grit into Grace currently works with nearly 40 Indianapolis women who are trying to change their lives. The program offers them a community to share their stories and receive support, as well as the resources needed to start a new life.

"It's very difficult to leave the industry," Jeffers said. "You have a blank resume. That becomes very difficult when you don't have a resume and you don't have a job that you can go to. It's so hard to walk away from cash on hand and to learn life skills and learn how to manage your money and time."

Jeffers knows that not everyone is willing to take a risk on someone. "We want to help women fill that resume," she said. "We want to help them get to places where they can learn job skills."

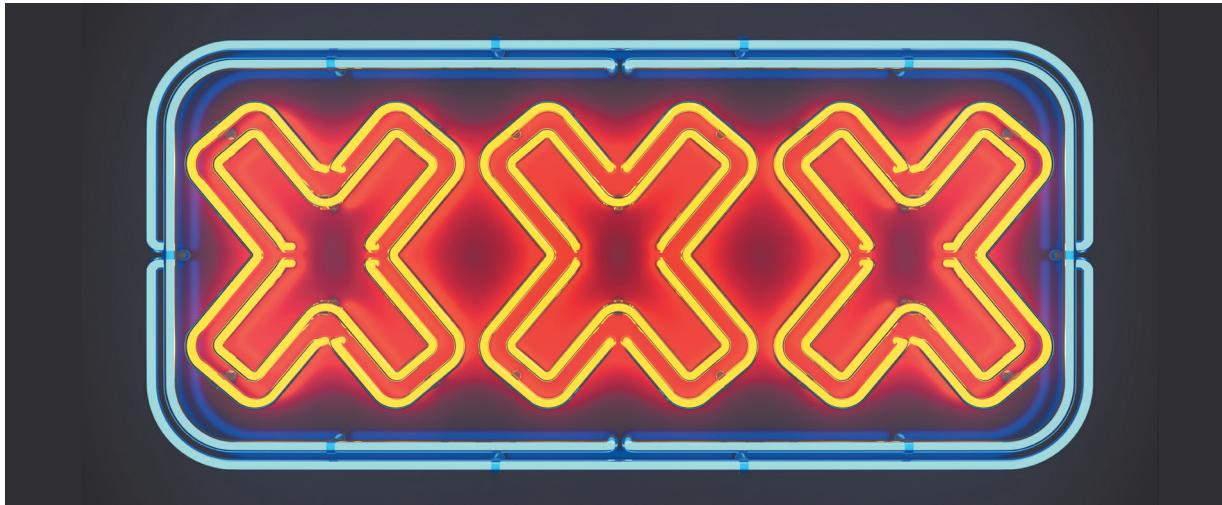
Of the women who come to her, Jeffers has seen some return to sex work. She said they are always welcomed back to Grit into Grace with no judgement if they need help. While faith played a major role in her life changes, she doesn't expect women to take up her beliefs. She

is also open to the fact some women find sex work empowering. She can only speak from her own experiences and those of the women she helps, she said.

Whitehead hopes Thursday's audience will be open-minded to all the experiences discussed. "We anticipate people showing up who have a porn or sex addiction or people who have a loved one who struggles with it," she said.

"We think that Vonnegut was in a great position to speak not just for his generation but for other generations about the experience of being human, about trying to figure out what can make us happy, how to avoid depression, loneliness, anxiety," she said.

Other events at the library during "Banned Books Week" include visits from Nanny Vonnegut, Kurt Vonnegut's daughter, and Juan Thompson, son of Hunter S. Thompson. A full schedule of discussions and activities can be found on The KVML website. ■





LOCAL BREWERS WIN BIG

BY RITA KOHN // RKHOHN@NUVO.NET

Two Indiana Craft Breweries received medals at the World Beer Awards announced Sept. 20, in London, while back in the U.S. four Indiana craft beer breweries brought home medals from the Great American Beer Festival held in Denver, Sept. 20-22.

Taxman's Qualified won the U.S. Gold citation in the World Beer Awards for Best Dark Belgian-style Strong.

Metazoa earned U.S. Gold medals each for Snakehair in the session IPA style, and for Nap in the Hammock in the Pale Cream Ale style.

Metazoa also gained a Silver medal in the beer can design competition with Kitten Slumber Party, a chocolate milk Stout.

"Metazoa took its first steps into canning in July 2018, but when offered the opportunity to submit their first and, at the time, only can artwork into competition, the team jumped at the chance for feedback on the newly-minted design," says Metazoa spokesperson Lauren Frederick.

Kitten Slumber Party, the brewery's flagship Chocolate Milk Stout delivered the U.S. Silver Medal for Beer Can Design.

An international competition that purports to distinguish the very best the world has to offer, The World Beer Awards selects, awards and promotes the 'World's

Best Beers' to consumers and the trade throughout the world.

Beers must be generally available and for sale in bottles or cans to become part of one of the nine overall winners in the tasting competition and a Gold, Silver or Bronze winner in the five design categories. 2,300 beers from more than 50 countries were blind-tasted and scored across three rounds of judging. The final round was held in London.

Closer to home at the Great American Beer Festival (GABF) in Denver last week, the Brewers Association (BA) awarded 306 medals to 280 breweries across the United States.

Earning Gold was Flix for Tripel Carmel-ite in Belgian-Style Tripel; Upland for Two of Tarts in Gose style; and The Tap for Kill the Lights in Imperial Stout style.

Taxman earned two GABF medals: Bronze for Deduction in Belgian-Style Dubbel or Quad, and Silver for Qualified in Belgian-Style Strong Specialty Ale.

In a ceremony at the Colorado Convention Center, award-winning breweries received medals in 102 beer categories covering 167 different beer styles (including all subcategories), establishing the best examples of each style in the country and earning a symbol of brewing excellence. ■



BREWERY DIRECTORY

Brewery Directory in the issues of NUVO every 4 weeks.

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13 S. Baldwin St.
taxmanbrewing.com

Planetary Brewing Co.
188 S. Madison Ave.
planetarybrewing.com

FISHERS

Four Day Ray Brewing
11671 Lantern Rd.
fourdayray.com

CARMEL

Danny Boy Beer Works
12702 Meeting House Rd.
317-564-0622

Deviate Brewing
4004 West 96th St.
317-374-8249

Flix Brewhouse
2206 E. 116th St.
flixbrewhouse.com

Union Brewing
622 S. Range Line Rd. Suite Q
unionbrewingco.com

MashCraft Fishers
11069 Allisonville Rd.
mashcraft.com

FISHERS

Four Day Ray Brewing
11671 Lantern Rd.
fourdayray.com

Redemption Alewerks
7035 E. 96th St.
redemptionalewerks.com

Sun King Tap Room
7848 E. 96th St.
sunkingbrewing.com

BARGERSVILLE

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13 S. Baldwin St.
taxmanbrewing.com

CARMEL

Danny Boy Beer Works
12702 Meeting House Rd.
317-564-0622

Deviate Brewing
4004 West 96th St.
317-374-8249

Flix Brewhouse
2206 E. 116th St.
flixbrewhouse.com

Union Brewing
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oakenbarrel.com

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bruggebrasserie.com

Cannon Ball Brewing Co.
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cannonballbrewingindy.com

CenterPoint Brewing Co.
1125 Brookside Ave.
centerpointbrewing.com

Central State Brewing Co.
2505 N. Delaware St.
centralstatebrewing.com

Chilly Water Brewing Co.
719 Virginia Ave.
chillywaterbrewing.com

Daredevil Brewing Co.
1151 Main St. (Speedway)
daredevilbeer.com

Deviate Brewing
4004 W. 96th St.
deviatebrewing.com

Flat 12 Bierwerks
414 N. Dorman St.
flat12.me

Fountain Square Brewing
1301 Barth Ave.
fountainsquarebrewery.com

Garfield Brewery
2310 Shelby St.
garfieldbrewery.com

Guggman Haus Brewing Co.
1701 Gent Ave.
guggmanhausbrewing.com

Grand Junction Brewing
110 S. Union St.
grandjunctionbrewing.com

Happy Brewing Co.
3902 N. Illinois St.
[/happybrewingco](https://facebook.com/happybrewingco)

Indiana City
24 Shelby St.
indianacitybeer.com

Liter House
5301 Winthrop Ave.
[facebook/literhouse](https://facebook.com/literhouse)

MashCraft
2205 N. Delaware St.
mashcraft.com

Metazoa Brewing Co.
140 S. College Ave.
metazoa.beer

Rock Bottom Brewery
10 W. Washington St.
rockbottom.com

Round Town Brewery
950 S. White River Pkwy
roundtownbrewery.com

St. Joseph Brewery
540 N. College Ave.
saintjoseph.beer

Sun King Brewing Co.
135 N. College Ave.
sunkingbrewing.com

The RAM
140 S. Illinois St.
theram.com

The Tap
306 N. Delaware St.
thetapmassave.com

Thr3e Wise Men Brewery
1021 Broad Ripple Ave.
thr3ewisemen.com

Triton Brewing
5764 Wheeler Rd.
tritonbrewing.com

Twenty Tap
5408 N. College Ave.
twentytap.com

TwoDEEP Brewing Co.
714 N. Capitol Ave.
twodeepbrewing.com

Wabash Brewing Co.
5328 W. 79th St.
wabashbrew.com

MCCORDSVILLE
Scarlet Lane Brewing Co.
7724 Depot St.
scarletlanebrew.com

NOBLESVILLE

Barley Island Brewing Co.
639 E. Conner St.
barleyisland.com

Deer Creek Brewery
17661 Cumberland Rd.
deercreekbrewery.com

PLAINFIELD

Black Swan Brewpub
7655, 2067 Hadley Rd.
blackswanbrewpub.com

Brew Link Brewery
212 E. Main St.
brewlinkbrewing.com

WESTFIELD

Moontown Brewing Co.
345 S. Bowers St.
moontownbeer.com

WHITELAND

Nailers Brewing Co.
6001 N. US-31 ste. 14
[/nailersbrewingcompany](https://facebook.com/nailersbrewingcompany)



WHITESTOWN

Urban Vines Winery & Brew
303 E. 161st St.
urban-vines.com

ZIONSVILLE

Noble Order
98 S. Main St.
nobleorderbrewing.com

Traders Brewing Co.
8587 Zionsville Rd.
tradersbrewingcompany.com



OCTOBER 13, 2018

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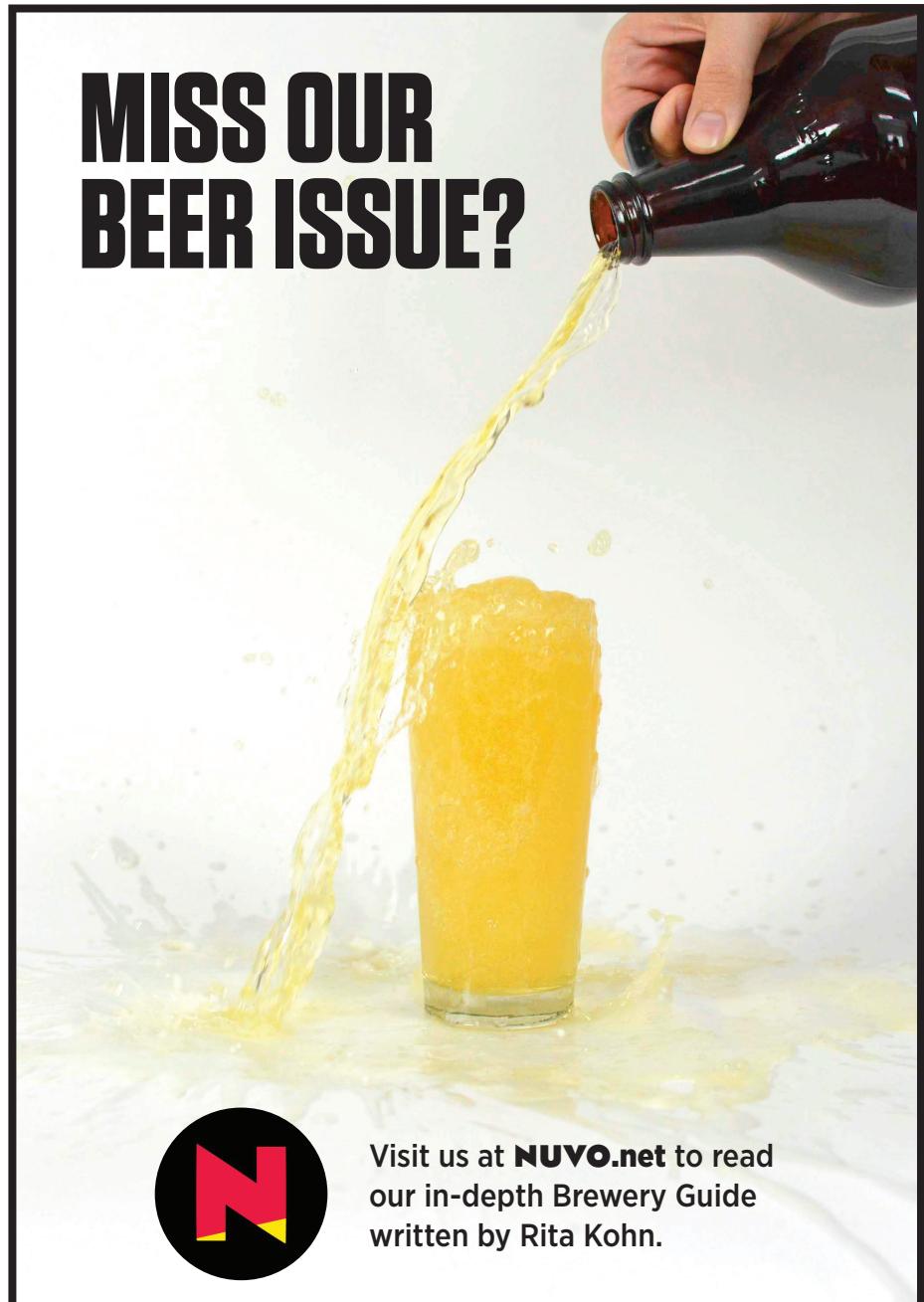
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WHERE // Old National Centre

TICKETS // oldnationalcentre.com

OCT.

7

EVENT // Lil Xan

WHERE // Old National Centre

TICKETS // oldnationalcentre.com

ANDREW BIRD
// PHOTO BY RUEBEN COX

ANDREW BIRD MAKES ORCHESTRA DEBUT WITH ISO

Indie-Rock Artist Set to Perform Uniquely Orchestrated Show in Four Cities

BY SETH JOHNSON // [SJOHNSON@NUVO.NET](mailto:sjohnson@nuvo.net)

For decades, Andrew Bird has travelled around the world, playing his own songs for fans far and wide. But while it may surprise some people, the virtuosic indie-rock violinist will play his songs with an orchestra for the first time ever on Wednesday, Sept. 26 when he visits the Hilbert Circle Theatre for a rare performance with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

"There's been talk of doing it for years," Bird says. "I just kept balking at it when it was proposed. I either wasn't ready, or I was perfectly happy to go on playing solo or with my band the way I have been."

An idea that was initially proposed to him by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Bird teamed up with musician, composer, and orchestrator Gabriel Kahane to re-imagine orchestrations of his tunes. Now, the 45-year-old is set to perform the program with four orchestras around the country, including the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (Sept. 26), the Kansas City Symphony (Sept. 29), the L.A. Phil (Oct. 11), and the National Symphony Orchestra (Oct. 26-27).

Having played violin since the age of 4, Bird was trained in the Suzuki method, which means he learned completely by ear. "I didn't play in orchestras until I was in high school, and I did all that through conservatory," he recalls. "I was not what you'd call a model student. I had good tone and decent technique, but I was playing classical music like it was folk music in a way." After moving on from

music school, Bird evolved into the "one-man orchestra" that many know today, perfecting his work as a solo artist.

"When I left music school, that's when I started getting in a van and driving around the country to play rock clubs," Bird says. "I've really had no contact with the classical world for the last 23 years. That being said, it is my roots. It's what I grew up listening to and playing, so it's kind of a big deal to come back to it in that way."

When he began working with Kahane to put together the show, Bird emphasized that he didn't want to simply create a "cinematic" presentation of his music.

"What I didn't want to do is a romantic underscoring of my songs," Bird says. "I wanted it to feel like I'm the violin soloist coming up there to do the concerto. But instead of the concerto, I sing, play, and improvise with the orchestra."

Fans can expect to hear music from Bird's entire catalog woven throughout the performance. For example, one suite is titled "Time Is A Crooked Bow," and it features "Armchairs," "Scythian Empire," "Roma Fade," "Weather Systems," and a new song, "Archipelago."

"We took songs that are familiar to people to some degree, along with some new songs, and we put them together," Bird says. "You'll recognize the songs if you're familiar with my catalog, but they're pretty dense and pretty out there."

A regular guest with the ISO (especially with their Happy Hour concerts), Steve Hackman will be conducting Bird and the

WHAT // Andrew Bird with ISO

WHEN // Wednesday, Sept. 26

WHERE // Hilbert Circle Theatre

TICKETS // indianapolissymphony.org

symphony for this very special performance. According to Hackman, putting together a program like this is rather challenging. "If this was easy, everyone would do it," Hackman says. "Translating 'popular music' to an orchestral form in a meaningful, engaging, and exciting way is extremely difficult." This being said, he thinks Bird's performance is one not to miss. "This is such a honor," he says. "I think the audience is in for quite a night."

Considering the small number of shows that Bird will be performing with orchestras in the U.S., his decision to perform with the ISO is certainly worth noting.

"There needed to be a certain amount of flexibility and open-mindedness," Bird says of the orchestras he chose. "Indy and Kansas City have a good reputation with that. It's just known amongst arrangers what orchestras are amenable to what I'm trying to do."

As for his upcoming run of dates, Bird admits he will be nervous upon arriving in Indianapolis for his first orchestral performance in decades.

"The first day I walk into the concert hall with the Indianapolis Symphony, I will not have heard how these sound with an orchestra," Bird says. "I'm going to kind of be a basket case, but I think it's going to be really cool." ■



WHAT // Ohmme
WHEN // Thursday, Sept. 27
WHERE // State Street Pub
TICKETS // \$7 at the door

you kind of end up bumping into people.

We actually did a tour together with my old band Kids These Days [which also featured members such as Vic Mensa and Nico Segal] back in 2012, and we've been friends since then. Sima and I have both sang backing vocals for Chance at Lollapalooza and Pitchfork. Again, the Chicago scene is one where everyone just wants everyone else to succeed and is really big on collaborating, so that really factors into it. Everyone kind of knows each other and likes each other's music.

NUVO: I know you do a lot of experimental work in Chicago outside of Ohmme. What is the experimental music community like there?

STEWART: The experimental and improvisational scene in Chicago is really great. It's pretty legendary. The AACM [Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians] is from here. Particularly now in this moment, Chicago is a really important hub for experimental music in the United States. There are constantly people touring through here with really incredible music happening. Ken Vandermark plays in a group in Chicago, and I play in a group called Marker with him. There are just a lot of people who are trying to open the scene up and get it out into the world a little more.

NUVO: How did Ohmme get connected with Joyful Noise?

STEWART: One of the first shows we ever played was actually at a house show with C.J. Boyd. We were sending our record around, and we sent C.J. our record. He was like, "You know what? I'm going to send this to Joyful Noise." He sent it to them, they listened to it, and then it worked out from there. We hung out with them in Indianapolis when we played there for the first time, and it seemed like the perfect fit in that moment. We're happy to be on that label and have such amazing label mates. ■

OHMME ROAMS FREELY

Chicago Duo Plays State Street in Support of Recent Joyful Noise Release

BY SETH JOHNSON // SJOHNSON@NUVO.NET

As a high schooler, Macie Stewart had a big decision to make: either pursue a music degree post-graduation or continue touring with her band at the time. She went with the latter and hasn't looked back since.

"I ended up not going to music school because I was in a band called Kids These Days that was touring pretty extensively during my senior year of high school," Stewart recalls. "We were like, 'We have to do this because it almost seems like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be able to tour and not have responsibilities as an 18-year-old.' So I didn't end up going to school. I've just ended up playing music anyway and pursuing it as a career rather than academically."

Stewart now plays alongside Sima Cunningham in the two-piece experimental rock group Ohmme. With Chicago roots that run deep,

the pair of longtime musicians has collaborated with everyone from Chance the Rapper to Jeff Tweedy of Wilco over the years. With such heavy involvement in their city, sites like Noisey have now even referred to Ohmme as "the heart of Chicago's music community."

After releasing a self-titled EP in 2017, Ohmme joined the roster of Indy-based label Joyful Noise Recordings in 2018 for the release of their debut full-length *Parts*. A collection of nine tracks that combines elements of experimental musings and raw rock 'n' roll goodness, *Parts* is much like many other Joyful Noise releases in that it's not easy to categorize. On Thursday, Sept. 27, listeners can hear for themselves when Ohmme visits State Street Pub as part of the duo's North American tour. Prior to the show, we caught up with Stewart for an interview, looking deeper into her Chicago music ties.

NUVO: How has coming up in Chicago been good for you as a musician?

MACIE STEWART: It's full of a lot of people who really just want to create and are really hardworking. I think this scene is also special because everyone wants to lift each other up and support each other. That's why there are always these weird guest appearances on everybody's records. Everyone's playing at each other's shows. That's just because everyone really, really likes music and everything that it encompasses.

NUVO: While we're on the topic of Chicago, I know that you've worked with Chance the Rapper.

STEWART: Yeah! We both went to Chicago public high schools. He went to Jones, and I went to Whitney Young. If you're in the same city and the same age around the same time,

SOUNDCHECK

BY IAN MCPHEE



THURSDAY // 9.27

Serengeti w/ Paigegod, DJ Shawshank at Pioneer

Start your weekend off a day early at Pioneer on Thursday night with a full-fledged fuckload of fantastic tunes from Serengeti, resident Joyful Noise hip-hop mastermind. The best place to start with his expansive discography is *Testarossa*, co-written by Yoni Wolf of Why?. If that doesn't hook ya, call 911 'cause you're probably dead.



THURSDAY // 9.27

Zao at Emerson Theatre

The legendary iron ore of metalcore, Zao, have been through several line-ups and labels over their double-decade run and won't quit. That dude who sat next to you in high school algebra class who got you to listen to *The Shape of Punk To Come* wasn't gonna waste his time showing you his real favorite band, Zao, 'cause you weren't ready for that shit.



FRIDAY // 9.28

Red Fang w/ Big Business at HI-FI

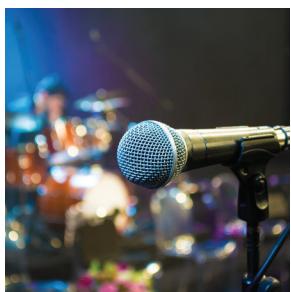
OK, Red Fang is rad and stoner metal will never be the same and all that, but we gotta talk about Big Business for here for a second. The founding members were not only in The Melvins, but the goddamn Murder City Devils as well. Imagine, something with so much potential, actually NOT sucking when you finally hear it. A goddamn miracle, I tell ya actually not sucking.



FRIDAY // 9.28

Ethers, Volunteer Department at State Street Pub

Ethers is swingin' through State Street Pub on their way from Chicago to play Gonofest in Nashville, and you don't wanna miss 'em. They're stopping to rip their latest self titled release in half, and then in half again and then burn the pieces, and huff the fumes. Oh, and they're playing with your favorite local department of volunteers, Volunteer Department.



SUNDAY // 9.30

Acoustic Bluegrass Open Jam at Mousetrap Bar & Grill

If you've never hit the lit open jam at Mousetrap, make your way up there on Sunday and bring somethin' to strum on. The cozy patio stage quickly becomes packed with pickers of all persuasions, and the tunes are usually pretty easy to pick up. Lead the group in a bluegrass version of "Girl On LSD" by Tom Petty and everyone will flip their shit. Trust me.

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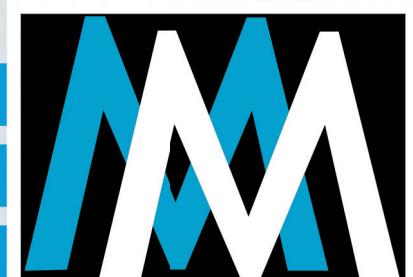


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Indianapolis, IN Area law enforcement agencies are asking for the public's help in finding Chancelor Walker. On June 7th, 2018 a warrant was issued charging Walker with Possession of a Firearm by a Serious Violent Felon. Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest of Chancelor Walker be directly and anonymously submitted to Crime Stoppers to be eligible for this reward. If you have information that will assist authorities, call Crime Stoppers at 317-262-8477(TIPS). Citizens can also download the mobile P3tips app for Apple or Android phones to submit a mobile tip, or go to www.CrimeTips.org to submit a web tip. You will remain anonymous and maybe eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1000 if the information leads to a felony arrest.

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WEDNESDAY // 9.26

Andrew Bird with the I.S.O.
Hilbert Circle Theater 7:30 p.m.
\$25 - \$75, all-ages
Frankie and the Witch Fingers, Stonefield The Bishop
(Bloomington) 8:30 p.m. \$11, 18+
Kid, New Wave Collective, Diop & Mandog
State Street Pub 9 p.m. \$5, 21+
The Family Jam
Mousetraps Bar & Grill 9 p.m. 21+
Hello Luna, Graham the Empire, Awake the Wilde, Dope Ocelot
Irving Theatre 7 p.m.
\$10, all-ages
The Sliding Glass, Pilots
The Melody Inn 7 p.m. \$5, 21+
Cool City Jazz Band
The Jazz Kitchen 7 p.m. \$12, 21+
Blues Jam w/ Jon Strahl
Slippery Noodle Inn
8:30 p.m. **FREE**, 21+
Toy Factory Kona
Jack's Indy/Daddy Jack's
8 p.m. **FREE**, 21+
Midwest Rhythm Exchange
Broad Ripple Brew Pub 6 p.m.
FREE, all-ages

THURSDAY // 9.27

Dead Sara w/ Welles
HI-FI 8 p.m. \$15, 21+
Jantzen w/ Indigo Child, Mr. Wizrd
Mousetraps Bar & Grill
9 p.m. \$7, 21+
Sean Chambers Band CD Release Party
Slippery Noodle
8:30 p.m. \$5, 21+
Cherub The Bluebird
(Bloomington) 8 p.m. \$20, 21+
Frankie Camaro
Melody Inn 8 p.m. \$5, 21+
Grupo Bembe Latin Band
The Jazz Kitchen
6:30 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

SATURDAY // 9.29

BORNs w/ Twin Shadow
Garfield Park
6 p.m. \$33, all-ages
Smells Like Nirvana
The Vogue Theatre
8 p.m. \$15, 21+
Clepto Ft. DJ Hugh Jeffner
H-FI 8 p.m. \$10, 21+
Kashmir Irving Theatre 7:30 p.m.
\$10 and up, all-ages

Sweet Thursday Jazz

Coal Yard Coffee 7 p.m. **FREE**,
all-ages

Lung / Church Girls
Be Here Now (Muncie)
7 p.m. \$5, 21+

FRIDAY // 9.28

The Revivalists w/ Mondo Cozmo
Garfield Park 6 p.m.
\$28 - \$50, all-ages

The Depaysement (Japan)
The Melody Inn 9 p.m. \$6, 21+

Red Not Chili Peppers
The Vogue Theatre 8 p.m. \$15, 21+

Sweet Thursday Jazz Coal Yard
Coffee 7 p.m. **FREE**, all-ages

Steady Flow Mousetraps Bar & Grill
9 p.m. \$8, 21+

Big Hog / Nagasaki Dirt / Dope Sweater Pioneer 8 p.m. \$5, 21+

Tell All Your Friends - An Emo Nite w/ DJ Txtbook, DJ Ghost Mutant

Hi-Fi 11 p.m. **FREE**, all-ages

Gio Media Presents - Hip-Hop Showcase Square Cat Vinyl
8 p.m. \$5, all-ages

Amy Ray (Indigo Girls)
Indy CD and Vinyl 12 p.m.
FREE, all-ages

Connie Han Trio
The Jazz Kitchen 7:30 p.m.
\$20 and up, 21+

Wonky Tonk, Jeff Kelly, Jake Schlegel State Street Pub
9 p.m. \$7, 21+

Gay Black Republican, The Lickers, Sugar Punk Fairies, The Debut of Piscum
The Melody Inn
9 p.m. \$6, 21+

Destroyer of Light / Thor-axe / Spirit Division / Drude
Black Circle Brewing Company
7 p.m. \$5, 21+

Rise of the Locals IV

Hoosier Dome
6 p.m. \$10, all-ages

Mark Dippel Books & Brews
(Brownstown) 8 p.m.
FREE, all-ages

Premier Series: Kenny Banks Jr.
The Jazz Kitchen 8 p.m. \$35, 21+

SUNDAY // 9.30

Welshly Arms w/ The Glorious Sons, Charming Liars
Hi-Fi 7 p.m. \$17, 21+

Gene Deer Slippery Noodle Inn
7:30 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

Today Junior The Melody Inn
8 p.m. \$5, 21+

MONDAY // 10.1

Mungion w/ Max Allen Band
Hi-Fi 7:30 p.m. \$15, 21+

John Scofield's "Combo 66"
The Jazz Kitchen 7 p.m. \$45, 21+

Johnny Ping's Open Stage
Thompson House 8 p.m. **FREE**, 21+
Acoustic Open Mic Irving Theatre
6 p.m. **FREE**, all-ages

TUESDAY // 10.2

Gordon Bonham Trio
Slippery Noodle Inn 7:30 p.m.
FREE, 21+

Open Mic Night Liberty Street
8:30 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

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ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do you have any skills at living on the edge between the light and the dark? Are you curious about what the world might look like and how people would treat you if you refused to divide everything up into that which helps you and that which doesn't help you? Can you imagine how it would feel if you loved your life just the way it is and not wish it were different from what it is? Please note: people less courageous than you might prefer you to be less courageous. But I hope you'll stay true to the experiment of living on the edge between the light and the dark.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): According to Popbitch.com, most top-charting pop songs are in a minor key. In light of this fact, I encourage you to avoid listening to pop songs for the next three weeks. In my astrological opinion, it's essential that you surround yourself with stimuli that don't tend to make you sad and blue, that don't influence you to interpret your experience through a melancholic, mournful filter. To accomplish the assignments that life will be sending you, you need to at least temporarily cultivate a mood of crafty optimism.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Gemini regent Queen Victoria (1819-1901) wore crotchless underwear made of linen. A few years ago, Britain's Museums, Libraries, and Archives Council accorded them "national designated status," an official notice that means they are a national treasure. If I had the power, I would give your undergarments an equivalent acknowledgment. The only evidence I would need to make this bold move would be the intelligence and expressiveness with which you are going to wield your erotic sensibilities in the coming weeks.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I've taken a break from socializing, my fellow Cancerian. In fact, I'm on sabbatical from my regular rhythm. My goal for the coming days is to commune with my past and review the story of my life. Rather than fill my brain up with the latest news and celebrity gossip, I am meditating on my own deep dark mysteries. I'm mining for secrets that I might be concealing from myself. In accordance with the astrological omens, I suggest that you follow my lead. You might want to delve into boxes of old mementoes or reread emails from years ago. You could get in touch with people who are no longer part of your life even though they were once important to you. How else could you get into intimate contact with your eternal self?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Here's a quote from *A Map of Misreading*, a book by renowned literary critic, Harold Bloom: "Where the synecdoche of *tessera* made a totality, however illusive, the metonymy of *kenosis* breaks this up into discontinuous fragments." What the cluck did Harold Bloom just say? I'm not being anti-intellectual when I declare this passage to be pretentious drivel. In the coming days, I urge you Leos to draw inspiration from my response to Bloom. Tell the truth about nonsense. Don't pretend to appreciate jumbled or over-complicated ideas. Expose bunk and bombast. Be kind, if you can, but be firm. You're primed to be a champion of down-to-earth communication.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A data research company, Priceonomics, suggests that Monday is the most productive day of the week and that October is the most productive month of the year. My research suggests that while Capricorns tend to be the most consistently productive of all the signs in the zodiac, Virgos often outstrip them for a six-week period during the end of each September and throughout October. Furthermore, my intuition tells me that you Virgos now have an extraordinary capacity to turn good ideas into practical action. I conclude, therefore, that you are about to embark on a surge of industrious and high-quality work. (P.S.: This October has five Mondays.)

HOMEWORK: Make two fresh promises to yourself: one that's easy to keep and one that's at the edge of your capacity to live up to.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Biologists are constantly unearthing new species, although not new in the sense of having just appeared on our planet. In fact, they're animals and plants that have existed for millennia. But they've never before been noticed and identified by science. Among recent additions to our ever-growing knowledge are an orchid in Madagascar that smells like champagne, an electric blue tarantula in the Guyana rain forest, and a Western Australian grass that has a flavor resembling salt and vinegar potato chips. I suspect you'll be making metaphorically comparable discoveries in the coming weeks, Libra: evocative beauty that you've been blind to and interesting phenomena that have been hiding in plain sight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): There is no such thing as a plant that blooms continuously. Phases of withering and dormancy are just as natural as phases of growth. I bring this fact to your attention to help you remain poised as you go through your own period of withering followed by dormancy. You should accept life's demand that you slow down and explore the mysteries of fallowness. You should surrender sweetly to stasis and enjoy your time of rest and recharging. That's the best way to prepare for the new cycle of growth that will begin in a few weeks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you were ever going to win a contest that awarded you a free vacation to an exotic sanctuary, it would probably happen during the next three weeks. If a toy company would ever approach you about developing a line of action figures and kids' books based on your life, it might also be sometime soon. And if you have ever had hopes of converting your adversaries into allies, or getting support and backing for your good original ideas, or finding unexpected inspiration to fix one of your not-so-good habits, those opportunities are now more likely than they have been for some time.

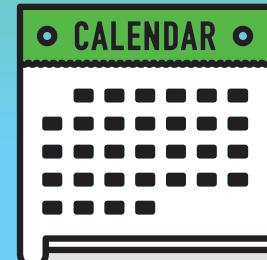
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An 81-year-old Capricorn man named James Harrison has donated his unique blood on 1,173 occasions. Scientists have used it to make medicine that prevents Rhesus disease in unborn babies, thereby healing more than 2.4 million kids and literally saving thousands of lives. I don't expect you to do anything nearly as remarkable. But I do want to let you know that the coming weeks will be a favorable time to lift your generosity and compassion to the next level. Harrison would serve well as your patron saint.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): On a spring morning some years ago, a smoky aroma woke me from a deep sleep. Peering out my bedroom window into the backyard, I saw that my trickster girlfriend Anastasia had built a bonfire. When I stumbled to my closet to get dressed, I found my clothes missing. There were no garments in my dresser, either. In my groggy haze, I realized that my entire wardrobe had become fuel for Anastasia's conflagration. It was too late to intervene, and I was still quite drowsy, so I crawled back in bed to resume snoozing. A while later, I woke to find her standing next to the bed bearing a luxurious breakfast she said she'd cooked over the flames of my burning clothes. After our meal, we stayed in bed all day, indulging in a variety of riotous fun. I'm not predicting that similar events will unfold in your life, Aquarius. But you may experience adventures that are almost equally boisterous, hilarious, and mysterious.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I've got three teachings for you. 1. Was there a time in your past when bad romance wounded your talent for love? Yes, but you now have more power to heal that wound than you've ever had before. 2. Is it possible you're ready to shed a semi-delicious addiction to a chaotic magic? Yes. Clarity is poised to trump melodrama. Joyous decisiveness is primed to vanquish ingrained sadness. 3. Has there ever been a better time than now to resolve and graduate from past events that have bothered and drained you for a long time? No. This is the best time ever.

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